



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
841 Chestnut Building
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107-4431

155-185

H. Scott Laird, P.G.
Woodward-Clyde Consultants
5120 Butler Pike
Plymouth Meeting, Pennsylvania 19462

November 17, 1994

Re: Background Off-site Soil Sampling Locations

Dear Mr. Laird:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed your letter dated October 28, 1994 in which you proposed locations for off-site background soil samples. The EPA finds these proposed locations to be reasonable and consistent with our telephone conversation of September 16, 1994. Please note the following comments regarding these locations:

1. Sixteen locations from four areas are proposed for sample collection. The map which accompanied the October 28, 1994 letter shows only the four areas but not the locations for each sample. As we discussed during our meeting on November 16, 1994, it would not be appropriate to composite samples taken from the these locations.
2. Area 2 has been chosen to represent non-anthropogenic background. The description of this area states that it is composed of farmland/woodland and that one of the samples will be taken near the railroad line. It is recommended that at least one sample be taken from the farmland and at least two from the woodland. It would also not be appropriate to composite samples from these locations.
3. Finally, as we discussed during our November 16, 1994 meeting, these sample areas seem appropriate at this time to address the issue of background soil quality. However, it will be necessary to review the results of the soil samples and any interpretation of these results prior to determining if these samples truly represent local background conditions. Of course, relevant supporting information should accompany any interpretation of these results.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns on this matter.

AR305146

Sincerely,

Lisa M. Marino
Lisa M. Marino
Remedial Project Manager
DE/MD Section

cc:

J. Hubbard, EPA
B. Pasquini, EPA
B. Davis, EPA
M. Zhang, DNREC
E. Roger, Tetra Tech
J. Patarcity, Beazer
J. Karmazyn, DuPont

AR305147